MoDOT Transportation Research Methods Training

Contractor: Missouri University of Science and Technology

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Abstract: This project will develop a training methodology focused on external funding. This hands on training will present the basics of external funding identification, teambuilding and collaborative partners, and proposal element design. Real-time searches and tutorials will be presented as part of the project. In addition, actual proposals will be "red teamed", or reviewed for completeness/readability, and a research methods handbook prepared as the deliverable for the final report.

Task 1: Comprehensive Literature Review and Funding Environment Analysis: A review of the relevant literature related to transportation grantsmanship best practices will be conducted. This review will identify trends and expectations in recent funding from both a regional and national perspective. In particular, the team will evaluate funding resources that can contribute to the MoDOT "Road to Tomorrow" Initiative.

Task 2: Proposal Basics-Hands-on Tutorials: These interactive tutorials will be held on-site at a MoDOT location and also offered via WebEx or other meeting software preferred by MoDOT to allow all districts to participate without incurring travel costs. Participants should have access to an internet-enabled laptop to achieve maximum value from the tutorials. One tutorial per month will be scheduled late spring/summer. Funding sources applicable to the Road to Tomorrow initiative will be used for demonstrations wherever possible.

- Tutorial 1—Funding Search Basics
- Tutorial 2—Collaborative Partnerships: Building a Winning Team
- Tutorial 3—Proposal Design Basics
- Tutorial 4—Proposal "red teaming"

Task 3: Research Methods Handbook/Final Report: The final deliverable for this project is a research methods handbook detailing findings, tutorial materials, and best practices for securing targeted transportation resource identification.

Project Timeline: March 1, 2016 to April 1, 2017